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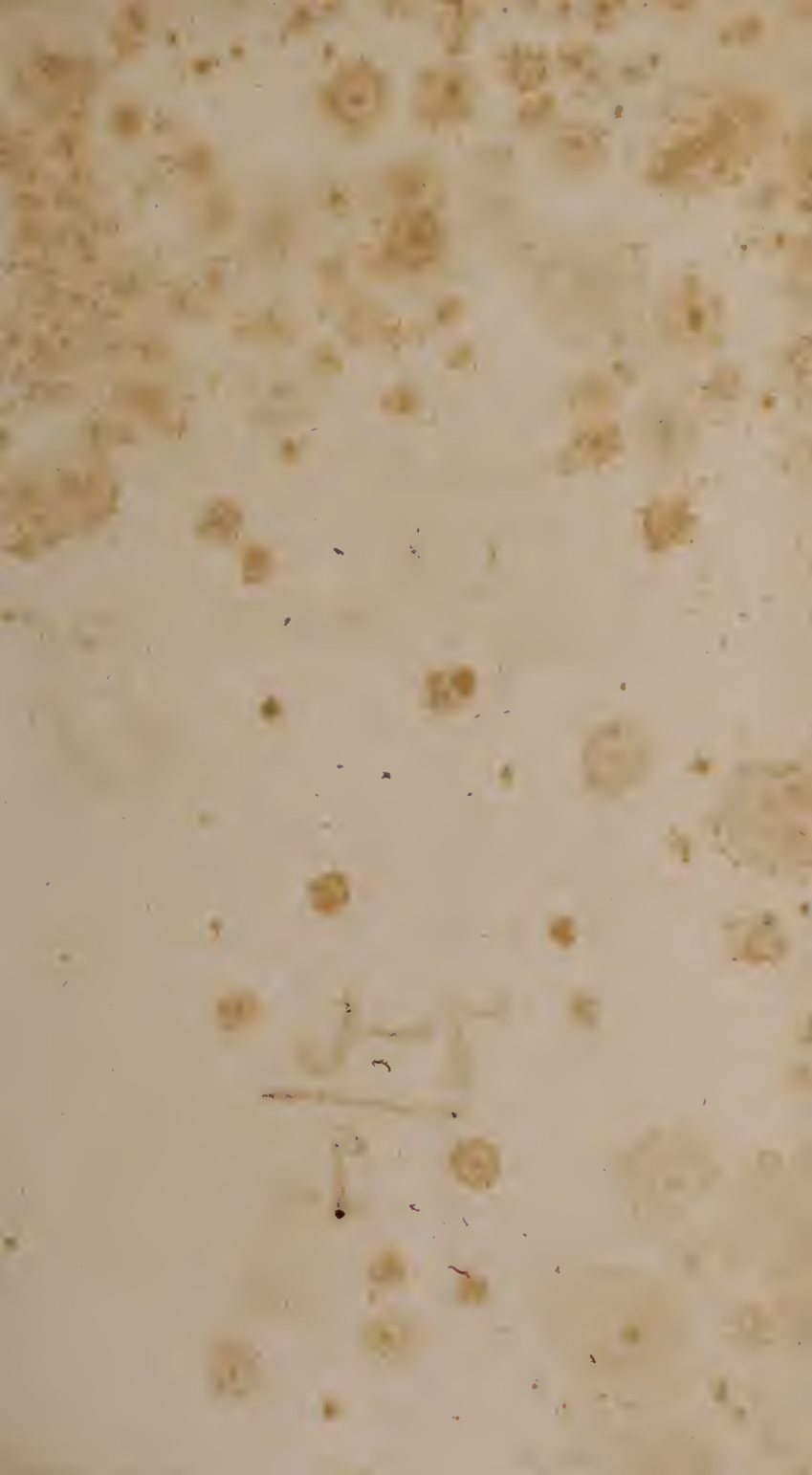
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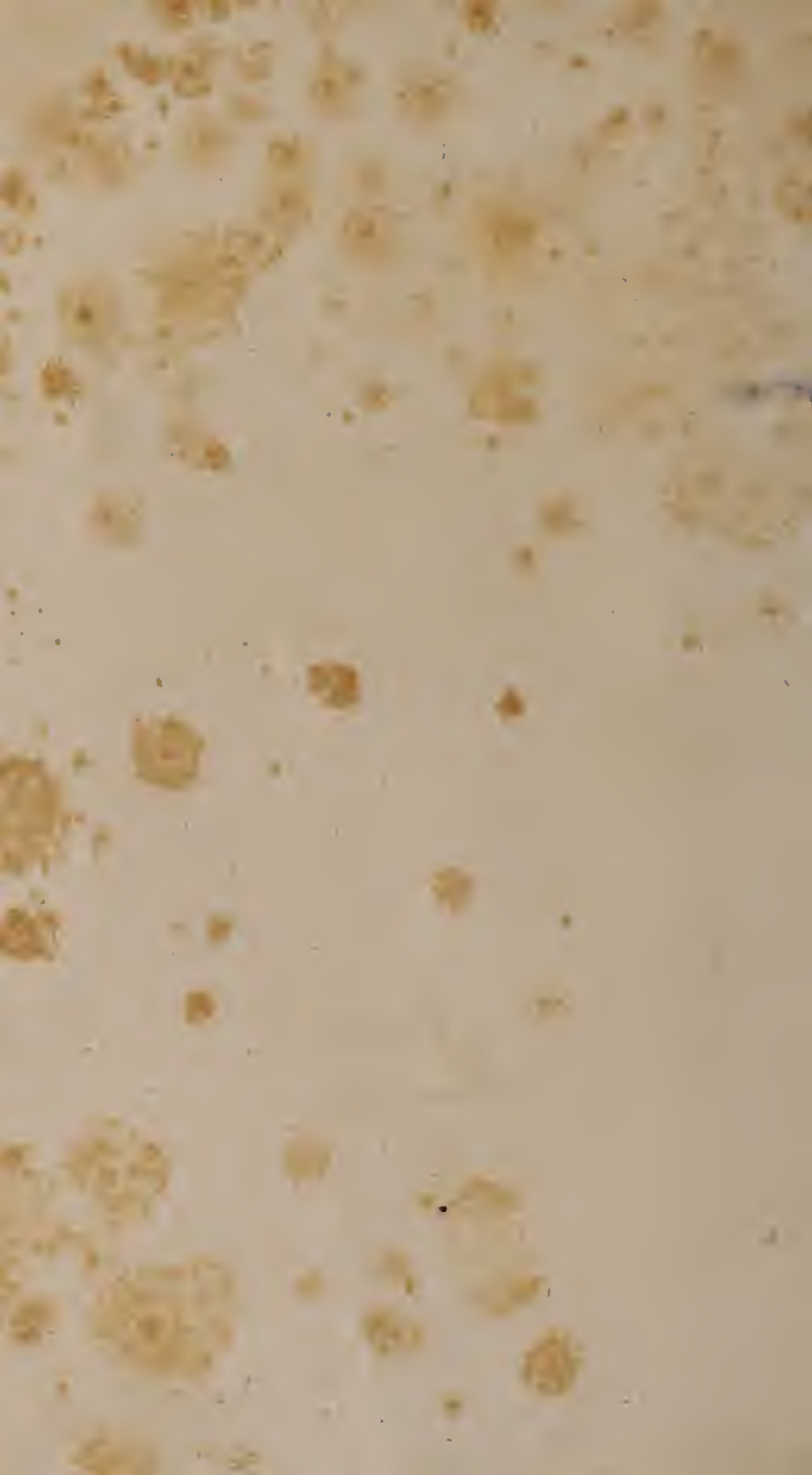
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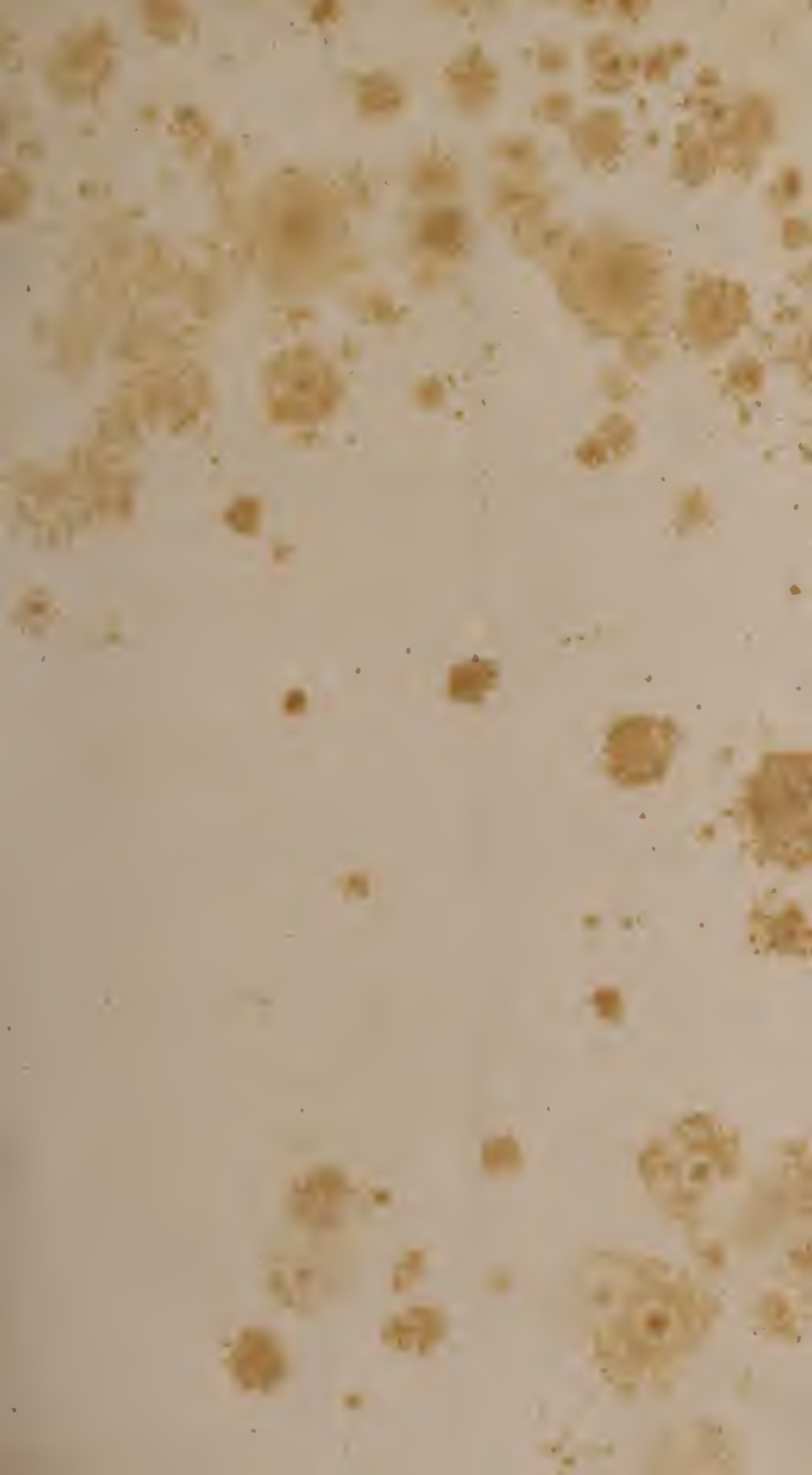
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THE
AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

COLONIAL JOURNAL.

VOL. IV.

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THE
AFRICAN REPOSITORY,
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VOL. IV.

MARCH, 1828.

No. 1.

Review

Of Mission from Cape Coast Castle to Ashantee, with a Statistical account of that Kingdom, and Geographical Notices of other parts of the Interior of Africa. By EDWARD BOWDICH, Esq., Conductor. London, 1819.

WHILE Christian nations have explored almost every region of the globe, Africa still offers to their enterprise an immense and interesting field for discovery. The efforts already made to ascertain the features and resources of this country, and the character of its population, have but very partially dispelled the mystery which has so long enveloped them. Sufficient information, however, has been obtained to excite an eager desire for more, and to create the belief, that people and objects of extreme curiosity and interest, are to be disclosed to the eyes of future adventurers into the interior.

We would not be understood as estimating lightly, the contributions which have been made to our knowledge of Africa, by those fearless and persevering travellers, who have during the last century crossed its deserts, penetrated its wildernesses, and sought to ascertain the sources, and trace out the windings of its noble rivers. They have accomplished much, and no one

can peruse their journals without thrilling emotion. Still a single glance at the map of this immense continent, will convince us, that only small portions of its territory have opened upon the view of these enterprising individuals; and that vast fields, of which we are in utter ignorance, remain to tempt the daring and inquiring spirit of this age.

The discoveries already made in Africa, are of a nature calculated to attract universal attention, and to excite an intense desire for the further prosecution of researches into its Geography, Natural History, the products of its soil, and the condition and habits of its population. It is in Africa, that we see nature, rude, eccentric, magnificent, romantic and sublime. In one place we behold the earliest and grandest monuments of civilization, in others her footstep is scarcely visible to the most accurate observer. *Here*, are deserts, which the swift-footed and long-enduring dromedary sometimes attempts to pass at his peril; *there* vales, rich in loveliness and beauty, as any which ever greeted the imagination of the child of genius and romance. In some parts, are to be found tribes gentle and amiable in their dispositions, with manners of artless simplicity, while in others the darkest and most odious features of barbarism frown away from their presence all the kindness and tenderness of humanity.

The establishment of civilized colonies on the African coast, will doubtless bring speedily to light, much very interesting information concerning Africa, with which we have hitherto been entirely unacquainted. What glorious effects may be anticipated from the growth and influence of these colonies! Prompted by the spirit of commercial enterprise, if by no better motive, the citizens of these colonies will maintain a friendly intercourse with the neighbouring tribes, through them become acquainted with those more remote, and finally open the way to the wonderful and well-nigh unexplored regions of Central Africa.—But benefits of higher interest to the philanthropic mind, than the mere acquisition of knowledge, may be expected from the plantation of these colonies—the introduction of a civilizing and Christian influence among the vast and uncounted population of the interior. “It has been, indeed, by the visits and exertions of ‘intelligent strangers,’ that many rude tribes have been rescued from barbarism, and elevated to importance and dignity

among the nations of the world.”* “In the early traditions of Greece and Italy, some traces of such sources of civilization may be found, and a similar origin has been ascribed to the civilization which prevailed in some kingdoms of South America on their first discovery by the Spaniards.

If the natives of the old world had their Cadmus and Saturn, Peru had her Manco Capac, who instructed her once barbarous people in agriculture and the liberal arts, and whose accidental arrival from some unknown region probably gave rise to the fable of his descent from the Sun.”†

We formerly (Vol. i. p. 321.) expressed the opinion that Christianity once established in Africa, would make rapid progress, and gain signal triumphs over the vice and superstitions of the natives. The faith of the Africans generally, (if it can be properly termed faith,) is superficial and undefined, and cherished, rather because favourable to the indulgence of unhallowed passions, than from any conviction of its truth. The most powerful opposition is to be apprehended from the disciples of Mahomet; but among the negro tribes, their authority is partial, and exerted rather from motives of avarice than from sincere attachment to the honor of their prophet.

And did poetic imagination ever represent in its fairest visions, a brighter, a sublimer scene, than Africa must exhibit if regenerated by Christianity—Christianity introduced and propagated by her children once torn from her in chains, but now restored as freemen to give her the charter of all civil liberty, and to invest her sons with the priceless immunities of the heirs of God? Then will the fierce and intractable Arab of the desert, throw his Koran on the sand; and while with softened heart and features, he reads the messages of the Prince of Peace, feel his spirit glow with the hope of a pure Heaven, where the warrior’s shout is unheard, and no garments are seen rolled in blood. The African despot, who like the King of Dahomey, now walks to his throne *in blood* and enters his palace on a pavement of *human skulls*, will lose his ferocity; nor will death! death! death! (ominous of human sacrifices) as echoed at midnight from the silver horns of the

* Sixth Report of the Society, page 15.

† First Report of the African Institution.

slaves of Ashantee's monarch, strike terrible as a demon's voice through every heart in the capital of a populous and powerful empire. The Abyssinnian, the natives of Tombuctoo, of Bornou, and Darfour, those who inhabit the mountains of Kong, and the poor Hottentot near the Cape of Good Hope, shall cherish the sentiments of brotherly affection, and taste the rich but quiet pleasures of a virtuous and benevolent life.

If it were lawful to express a wish which cannot be realized, that of the writer would be, that he might be permitted to witness the change which Christianity will produce in Africa, to look over this land after Truth shall have achieved its conquests, to see Agriculture in its vales, and Art and Commerce in its cities, to hear Science instructing her votaries, and Religion proclaiming her sanctions, and to perceive all the bland and social virtues cherished by a population rejoicing under the dominion of righteous law. "Eheu! fugaces Labuntur anni," nor will a few years be adequate to the accomplishment of so great a work; yet, might we hazard a prediction, we would say the year 1928 will exhibit proofs that our hope for Africa is not the effect of enthusiasm.

The volume before us, it is seen, was published in London, in 1819. It may be well, perhaps, to state, concisely, the origin and objects of the mission which it describes. According to Mr. Bowdich, several writers mention that reports of Ashantee had reached Europe as early as the year 1700, and that it was then regarded as preeminent in wealth and power. An Ashantee army reached the coast for the first time in 1807, conducting a very destructive war against the Fantees; and again in 1811, and a third time in 1816, invaded the country of these people, and inflicted upon them the severest sufferings. Cape Coast Castle was placed in imminent hazard, and the Gov. felt compelled to advance large sums of gold on account of the Fantees. In consequence of these calamities, "the Government desired from the African Committee, to authorize and enable them to venture an embassy to conciliate the powerful monarch of Ashantee, and to propitiate an extension of commerce." In 1817 a store ship arrived from England with suitable presents for such an expedition, and instructions from the British Government in reference to its character and the objects to be effected. The Governor at Cape

Coast Castle, (John Hope Smith,) immediately selected four gentlemen for the embassy, represented to them in a letter the importance of the mission, and the various and numerous subjects for inquiry and observation during their visit; and these individuals, under the guidance of natives of Ashantee, selected by an Ashantee captain, commenced their journey on the morning of the 22d of April, 1817. The names of the individuals upon whom devolved the duties of this interesting mission were, Frederick James, Esq. principal, Edward Bowdich, Esq. Mr. Hutchison and Surgeon Tedlie; but owing to an important difference of opinion in reference to measures to be adopted soon after their arrival at Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee, Mr. James was recalled, and Mr. Bowdich became the conductor of the embassy.

Coomassie, the Capital of Ashantee, lies about one hundred and fifty miles in the interior, north of Cape Coast Castle.—The expedition found the paths through the Fantee territory in many places excessively bad, but the slowness and difficulty of their progress was in some measure compensated by the novel and striking aspect of the country, and the occasional surpassing beauty of the region through which they passed. The second day they entered “a valley profusely covered with pines, aloes, and lilies; and richly varied with palm, banana, plantain, and guava trees; the view was refreshed by gentle risings, crowned with cotton trees of a stupendous size.” “I never saw,” says Mr. Bowdich, “soil so rich, or vegetation so luxuriant.” The following is the account given of one of the Fantee Crooms, (villages) situated about twenty miles from the coast.

“I made Payntree’s Croom. We received the compliments of Payntree and several Caboccers (chiefs) under a large tree, and were then conducted to a neat and comfortable dwelling, which had been prepared for us; a small square area afforded a shed for cooking in, on one side, and a sleeping room in each of the others, open in front, but well thatched, and very clean; from this we passed to our sitting room, the floor of which was elevated about two feet from the ground. The Croom was prettily situated on a level, encircled by very fine trees, and consisted of a very broad and well cleaned street of small huts, framed of bamboo, and neatly thatched. We observed a great number of small birds, which were even more beautiful from their delicate symmetry, than their brilliant plumage. They.

were generally green, with black wings, and their nests hanging from the trees.

“I walked with Mr. Tedlie along a very neat path, well fenced and divided by *stiles*, to a corn plantation of at least twenty acres, and well cultivated. Payntree’s farm house was situated here, and afforded superior conveniences; a fowl house, a pigeon house, and a large granary, raised on a strong stage. As we returned we paid him a visit, and were refreshed with some excellent palm wine; his dwelling was a square of four apartments, which were entered from an outer one, where a number of drums were kept; the angles were occupied by the slaves, and his own room, which had a small inner chamber, was decked with muskets, blunderbusses, cartouch belts fantastically ornamented, and various insignia. The order, cleanliness, and comfort surprised us; the sun had just set, and a cheerful fire on a clean hearth supported the evening meal. The old man was seated in his state chair, diverting himself with his children and younger wives; the elder one was looking on from the opposite apartment with happy indifference: it was the first scene of domestic comfort I had witnessed among the natives. There was a small plantation or garden neatly fenced in, near the house, for the supply of the family.”

The following will give our readers an idea of the obstacles which sometimes obstructed their path:

“The doom and iron trees were frequent: the path was a labyrinth of the most capricious windings, the roots of the cotton tree obstructing it continually, and our progress was generally by stepping and jumping up and down, rather than walking; the stems or caudices of these trees projected from the trunks like flying buttresses, their height sometimes 20 feet. Immense trunks of fallen trees presented constant barriers to our progress, and increased our fatigues, from the labour of scaling them; we were also frequently obliged to wait the cutting away of the underwood before we could proceed, even on foot. The large trees were covered with parasites and convolvuli, and the climbing plants, like small cables, ascending the trunks to some height, abruptly shot downwards, crossed to the opposite trees, and threaded each other, in such a perplexity of twists and turnings, that it soon became impossible to trace them in the general entanglement.”

After a toilsome march of several days, they beheld a scene of singular beauty, which is thus described:

“At the end of five miles and a quarter, the herbage to the right disclosed the cheerful reflections of the sun from the water; and we descended through a small vista of the forest, to the banks of Boosempira, or Chamah river. Nothing could be more beautiful than its scenery. The bank on

the south side was steep, and admitted but a narrow path; that on the north sloping; on which a small Fetish house, under the shade of a cachou tree, fixed the eye; whence it wandered over a rich variety of tint and foliage, in which light and shade were most happily blended; the small rocks stole through the herbage of the banks and now and then ruffled the water; the doom trees towering in the shrubbery, waved to the most gentle air a rich foliage of dark green, mocking the finest touch of the pencil; the tamarind and smaller mimosas, heightening its effect by their livelier tint and the more piquant delicacy of their leaf; the cotton trees overtopped the whole entwined in convolvuli, and several elegant little trees, unknown to me, rose in the back ground, intermixed with palms, and made the coup d'œil enchanting. The bright rays of the sun were sobered by the rich reflections of the water, and there was a mild beauty in the landscape, uncongenial to barbarism, which imposed the expectation of elegance and refinement. I attempted a sketch, but it was far beyond my rude pencil; the expression of the scene could only have been traced in the profile of every tree, and it seemed to defy any touches, but those of a Claude or a Wilson, to depict the life of its beauty."

In a few days they entered the kingdom of Ashantee. At the second village within its limits, they stopped awhile at the request of a "venerable old man, whose manners were very pleasing," and who refreshed them with wine and fruit. They were pained to learn that the "life of this old man was forfeited to some superstitious observances, and that he only waited the result of a petition to the King, that in consideration of his infirmities, he might be executed at his own Croom. He conversed cheerfully and congratulated himself on seeing white men before he died." His head was brought to Coomassie the day after their arrival.

On the 19th of May they arrived at Coomassie. Their approach was announced to the King, who desired them to rest at a little Croom until he had finished washing, when Captains would be deputed to conduct them to his presence. The pomp and ceremony displayed on this occasion were of a very striking and imposing character.

"We entered Coomassie at two o'clock, passing under a fetish or sacrifice of a dead sheep, wrapped up in red silk, and suspended between two lofty poles. Upwards of 5,000 people, the greater part warriors, met us with awful bursts of martial music, discordant only in its mixture; for horns, drums, rattles, and gong gongs, were all exerted with a zeal bordering on

frenzy, to subdue us by the first impression. The smoke which encircled us from the incessant discharges of musketry, confined our glimpses to the foreground; and we were halted whilst the captains performed their Pyrrhic dance, in the centre of a circle of warriors; where a confusion of flags, English, Dutch, and Danish, were waved and flourished in all directions; the bearers plunging and springing from side to side, with a passion of enthusiasm only equalled by the captains, who followed them, discharging their shining blunderbusses so close, that the flags now and then were in a blaze, and emerging from the smoke, with all the gesture and distortion of maniacs. Their followers kept up the firing around us in the rear. The dress of the captains was a war cap, with gilded rams horns projecting in front, the sides extended beyond all proportion by immense plumes of eagles feathers, and fastened under the chin with a band of cowries. Their vest was of red cloth, covered with fetishes and saphies* in gold and silver; and embroidered cases of almost every colour, which flapped against their bodies as they moved, intermixed with small brass bells, the horns and tails of animals, shells and knives; long leopards tails hung down their backs, over a small bow covered with fetishes. They wore loose cotton trowsers, with immense boots of a dull red leather, coming half way up the thigh, and fastened by small chains to their cartouch or waist belt; these were also ornamented with bells, horses tails, strings of amulets, and innumerable shreds of leather; a small quiver of poisoned arrows hung from their right wrist, and they held a long iron chain between their teeth, with a scrap of Moorish writing affixed to the end of it. A small spear was in their left hands, covered with red cloth and silk tassels. Their black countenances heightened the effect of this attire, and completed a figure scarcely human.

This exhibition continued about half an hour, when we were allowed to proceed, encircled by the warriors, whose numbers, with the crowds of people, made our movement as gradual as if it had taken place in Cheapside; the several streets branching off to the right, presented long vistas crammed with people: and those on the left hand, being on a declivity, innumerable rows of heads rose one above another; the large open porches of the houses, like the fronts of stages in small theatres, were filled with the better sort of females and children, all impatient to behold white men for the first time; their exclamations were drowned in the firing and music, but their gestures were in character with the scene. When we reached the palace, about half a mile from the place where we entered, we were again halted, and an open file was made, through which the bearers were passed, to deposit the presents and baggage in the house assigned to us. Here we were gratified by observing several of the Caboccers pass by with their trains, the novel splendour of which astonished us. The bands principally composed of horns and flutes, trained to play in concert, seemed to soothe our hearing

* Scraps of Moorish writing, as charms against evil.

into its natural tone again by their wild melodies; whilst the immense umbrellas, made to sink and rise from the jerkings of the bearers, and the large fans waving around, refreshed us with small currents of air, under a burning sun, clouds of dust, and a density of atmosphere almost suffocating. We were then squeezed at the same funeral pace, up a long street to an open-fronted house, where we were desired by a royal messenger to wait a further invitation from the King. Here our attention was forced from the astonishment of the crowd to a most inhuman spectacle, which was paraded before us for some minutes; it was a man whom they were tormenting previous to sacrifice; his hands were pinioned behind him, a knife was passed through his cheeks, to which his lips were noosed like the figure of eight; one ear was cut off and carried before him, the other hung to his head by a small bit of skin; there were several gashes in his back, and a knife was thrust under each shoulder blade; he was led with a cord passed through his nose, by men disfigured with immense caps of shaggy black skins, and drums beat before him; the feeling this horrid barbarity excited must be imagined. We were soon released by permission to proceed to the King, and passed through a very broad street, about a quarter of a mile long, to the market place. Our observations en-passant had taught us to conceive a spectacle far exceeding our original expectations; but they had not prepared us for the extent and display of the scene which here burst upon us; an area of nearly a mile in circumference was here crowded with magnificence and novelty. The King, his tributaries and captains, were resplendent in the distance, surrounded by attendants of every description, fronted by a mass of warriors which seemed to make our approach impervious.—The sun was reflected with a glare scarcely more supportable than the heat from the massy gold ornaments, which glistened in every direction. More than a hundred bands burst at once on our arrival with the peculiar airs of their several chiefs; the horns flourished their defiance with the beating of innumerable drums and metal instruments, and then yielded for a while to the soft breathings of their long flutes, which were truly harmonious; and a pleasing instrument like the bagpipe without the drone was happily blended. At least a hundred large umbrellas or canopies, which could shelter thirty persons, were sprung up and down by the bearers with brilliant effect, being made of scarlet, yellow, and the most showy cloths and silks, and crowned on the top with crescents, pelicans, elephants, barrels, and arms and swords of gold; they were of various shapes but mostly dome, and the valances (in some of which small looking-glasses were inserted) fantastically scalloped and fringed; from the fronts of some, the proboscis and small teeth of elephants projected, and a few were roofed with leopard skins, and crowned with various animals naturally stuffed. The state hammocks, like long cradles, were raised in the rear, the poles on the heads of the bearers; the cushions and pillows were covered with crimson taffeta, and the richest cloths hung over the sides. Innumerable small umbrellas,

of various coloured stripes, were crowded in the intervals, whilst several large trees heightened the scene, by contrasting the sober colouring of nature

“Discolor unde auri per ramos aura refulsit.”

The King's messengers, with gold breast-plates, made way for us, and we commenced our round, preceded by the canes and the English flag. We stopped to take the hand of every Caboccer, which as their household suites occupied several spaces in advance, delayed us long enough to distinguish some of the ornaments in the general blaze of splendour and ostentation.

“The Caboceers, as did their superior captains and attendants, wore Ashantee cloths, of extravagant price, from the costly foreign silks which had been unravelled to weave them in all the varieties of colour as well as pattern; they were of an incredible size and weight, and thrown over the shoulder exactly like the Roman toga. A small silk fillet generally encircled their temples, and massy gold necklaces intricately wrought, suspended Moorish charms, dearly purchased, and enclosed in small square cases of gold, silver, and curious embroidery. Some wore necklaces reaching to the navel entirely of aggrary beads; a band of gold and beads encircled the knee, from which several strings of the same depended; small circles of gold like guineas, rings, and casts of animals, were strung round their ankles; their sandals were of green, red, and delicate white leather; manillas, and rude lumps of rock gold, hung from their left wrists, which were so heavily laden as to be supported on the head of one of the handsomest boys. Gold and silver pipes and canes dazzled the eye in every direction.—Wolves' and rams' heads as large as life, cast in gold, were suspended from their gold-handled swords, which were held around them in great numbers; the blades were shaped like round bills and rusted in blood; the sheaths were of leopard skin, or the shell of a fish like shagreen. The large drums supported on the head of one man, and beaten by two others, were braced around with the thigh bones of their enemies, and ornamented with their skulls. The kettle drums, resting on the ground, were scraped with wet fingers, and covered with leopard skin. The wrists of the drummers were hung with bells and curiously shaped pieces of iron, which gingled loudly as they were beating. The smaller drums were suspended from the neck by scarfs of red cloth; the horns (the teeth of young elephants) were ornamented at the mouth piece with gold and the jaw bones of human victims. The war caps of eagles' feathers nodded in the rear, and large fans, of the wing feathers of the ostrich, played around the dignitaries; immediately behind their chairs, (which were of a black wood, almost covered by inlays of ivory and gold embossment) stood their handsomest youths with corslets of leopard skin, covered with gold cockle shells, and stuck full of small knives sheathed in gold and silver, and the handles of blue agate, cartouch boxes of elephant's hide hung below, ornamented in the same manner—a large gold-handled sword was fixed behind the left shoulder, and silk scarfs and

horses' tails (generally white) streamed from the arms and waist cloth.— Their long Danish muskets, had broad rims of gold, at small distances, and the stocks were ornamented with shells. Finely grown girls stood behind the chairs of some, with silver basins. Their stools (of the most laborious carved work, and generally with two large bells attached to them) were conspicuously placed on the heads of favourites; and crowds of small boys were seated around, flourishing elephants' tails curiously mounted. The warriors sat on the ground close to these, and so thickly as not to admit of our passing without treading on their feet, to which they were perfectly indifferent; their caps were of the skins of the pangolin and leopard, the tails hanging down behind; their cartouch belts (composed of small gourds, which hold the charges, and covered with leopard or pigs' skin,) were embossed with red shells, and small brass bells thickly hung to them; on their hips and shoulders was a cluster of knives: iron chains and collars dignified the most daring, who were prouder of them than of gold; their muskets had rests of leopard's skin, and the locks a covering of the same; the sides of their faces were curiously painted in long white streaks, and their arms also striped, having the appearance of armour.

“We were suddenly surprised by the sight of Moors, who afforded the first general diversity of dress; there were 17 superiors, arrayed in large cloaks of white satin, richly trimmed with spangled embroidery, their shirts and trowsers were of silk, and a very large turban of white muslin was studded with a border of different coloured stones; their attendants wore red caps and turbans, and long white shirts, which hung over their trowsers; those of the inferiors were of a dark blue cloth; they slowly raised their eyes from the ground as we passed, and with a most malignant scowl. The prolonged flourishes of the horns, a deafening tumult of drums, and the fuller concert of the intervals, announced that we were approaching the King: we were already passing the principal officers of his household; the chamberlain, the gold horn blower, the captain of the messengers, the captain for royal executions, the captain of the market, the keeper of the royal burial ground, and the master of the bands, sat surrounded by a retinue and splendour, which bespoke the dignity and importance of their offices. The cook had a number of small services covered with leopard's skin held behind him, and a large quantity of massy silver plate was displayed before him, punch bowls, waiters, coffee pots, tankards, and a very large vessel with heavy handles and cloved feet, which seemed to have been made to hold incense; I observed a Portugese inscription on one piece, and they seemed generally of that manufacture.

“The executioner, a man of immense size, wore a massy gold hatchet on his breast; and the execution stool was held before him clotted in blood, and partly covered with a cawl of fat. The king's four linguists were encircled with a splendour inferior to none, and their peculiar insignia, gold canes, were elevated in all directions, tied in bundles like fascies. The

keeper of the treasury, added to his own magnificence, by the ostentatious display of his service; the blow pan, boxes, scales and weights were of solid gold.

“A delay of some minutes whilst we severally approached to receive the King’s hand, afforded us a thorough view of him; his deportment first excited my attention; native dignity in princes we are pleased to call barbarous, was a curious spectacle: His manners were majestic, yet courteous; and he did not allow his surprise to beguile him for a moment of the composure of the monarch; he appeared to be about thirty-eight years of age, inclined to corpulence, and of a benevolent countenance; a fillet of aggrry beads round his temples, a necklace of gold cockspur shells strung by the largest ends, and over his right shoulder a red silk cord, suspending three saphies cased in gold; his bracelets were the richest mixtures of beads and gold, and his fingers covered with rings; his cloth was of a dark green silk; a pointed diadem was elegantly painted in white on his forehead; also a pattern resembling an epaulette on each shoulder, and an ornament like a full blown rose, one leaf rising above another until it covered his whole breast; his knee bands were of aggrry beads, and his ankle strings of gold ornaments of the most delicate workmanship, small drums, sankos, stools, swords, guns, and birds clustered together; his sandals of a soft white leather, were embossed across the instep band, with small gold and silver cases of saphies; he was seated in a low chair, richly ornamented with gold; he wore a pair of gold castanets on his finger and thumb, which he clapt to enforce silence. The belts of the guards behind his chair were cased in gold and covered with small jaw bones of the same metal; the elephants’ tails waving like a small cloud before him were spangled with gold, and large plumes of feathers were flourished amid them. His eunuch presided over these attendants, wearing only one piece of gold about his neck; the royal stool, entirely cased in gold was displayed under a splendid umbrella, with drums, sankos, horns and various musical instruments, cased in gold about the thickness of cartridge paper: large circles of gold hung by scarlet cloth from the swords of state, the sheaths as well as the handles of which were also cased; hatchets of the same were intermixed with them: the breast of the Ocrabs, and various attendants were adorned with large stars, stools, crescents and gossamer wings of solid gold.

“We pursued our course through this blazing circle, which afforded to the last a variety exceeding description and memory, so many splendid novelties diverting the fatigue, heat, and pressure we were labouring under; we were almost exhausted, however, by the time we reached the end; when instead of being conducted to our residence, we were desired to seat ourselves under a tree at some distance to receive the compliments of the whole in our turn.

“The swell of their bands gradually strengthened on our ears, the peals of the warlike instruments bursting upon the short, but sweet responses of the flutes: the gaudy canopies seemed to dance in the distant view, and floated

broadly as they were springing up and down in the foreground; flags and banners waved in the interval, and the chiefs were eminent in their crimson hammocks, amidst crowds of musketry. They dismounted as they arrived within thirty yards of us; their principal captains preceded them with the gold-handled swords, a body of soldiers followed with their arms reversed, then their bands and gold canes, pipes, and elephants' tails. The chief, with a small body guard, under his umbrella, was generally supported around the waist by the hands of his favourite slave, whilst captains holla'd close in his ear, his warlike deeds and (strong) names, which were reiterated with the voices of Stentors by those before and behind; the larger party of warriors brought up the rear. Old captains of secondary rank were carried on the shoulders of a strong slave; but a more interesting sight was presented in the minors, or young Caboceers, many not more than five or six years of age, who overweighed by ornaments, were carried in the same manner, (under their canopies,) encircled by all the pomp and parade of the predecessors. Amongst others, the grandson of Cheboo was pointed out, whom the king had generously placed on the stool of his perfidious enemy. A band of Fetish men, or priests, wheeled round and round as they passed, with surprising velocity. Manner was as various as ornament; some danced by with irresistible buffoonery, some with a gesture and carriage of defiance; one distinguished Caboceer performed the war dance before us for some minutes, with a large spear, which grazed us at every bound he made; but the greater number passed us with order and dignity, some slipping one sandal, some both, some turning after taking each of us by the hand; the attendants of others knelt before them, throwing dust upon their heads; and the Moors apparently, vouchsafed us a blessing.

“The King’s messengers, who were posted near us, with their long hair hanging in twists like a thrum mop, used little ceremony in hurrying by this transient procession; yet it was nearly eight o’clock before the King approached.

“It was a beautiful star-light night, and the torches which preceded him displayed the splendour of his regalia with a chastened lustre, and made the human trophies of the soldiers more awfully imposing. The skulls of three Banda Caboceers, who had been his most obstinate enemies, adorned the largest drum; the vessels in which the boys dipped their torches were of gold. He stopped to inquire our names a second time, and to wish us good night; his address was mild and deliberate; he was followed by his aunts, sisters, and others of his family, with rows of fine gold chains around their necks. Numerous chiefs succeeded, and it was long before we were at liberty to retire. We agreed in estimating the number of warriors at thirty thousand.”

(*To be continued.*)

Latest from Liberia.

We now offer to our readers, Mr. Ashmun's communication by the Ontario, to which we alluded in the last number of our work.

CALDWELL, NOVEMBER 28, 1827.

GENTLEMEN:

My last advices from your Board are those received by the Norfolk—and my last despatches those sent by the same ship. She sailed from Montserado on the 26th of September—and except Dr. Todsen, then nearly recovered from a strong touch of the fever, all in good health.—The strength of the rains having abated, we, about that time, renewed the active operations of the present dry season, which are still carrying on, under the favour of Divine Providence, in a more satisfactory and effectual way than in any former year. The established state of the Colony—a treasure of past experience—the confirmed health of the settlers—our better knowledge of materials for every useful work—and a path trodden smooth by use, begin, now, as the fruit of perseverance in the unfavourable circumstances of former years, to requite in a fuller measure, the labour, and expense bestowed on the improvements of the Colony. Every month adds to it some new acquisitions, discloses some new resources—or produces some new valuable improvements.

The dry season is but just settled. Four new decked schooners have, however, been already built, fitted for sea, and actually gone abroad under the flag of the Colony. Three more of the same description, all new, will follow in a very few weeks—and these exclusive of three more decked vessels, and a variety of open coasting craft before in use. Most of these vessels have been wholly built at Monrovia, of country materials, except iron, copper, pitch and cordage.

We have the present year succeeded in introducing cows into the Colony from the interior. Formerly they were prohibited, and male cattle only suffered to be sent to market. It is but a few months ago, that the Colony had no others, except the produce of a cow brought from Sierra Leone in 1822. We have

now, in all, 14, and begin to get milk in considerable plenty.—Monrovia has a butchering establishment, which slaughters never less than two bullocks weekly—sometimes four, and even more, when beef is in demand. We have a path open, about 120 miles towards the Northeast; by which we receive as many bullocks, as we choose to order.

There is one team of small but good oxen in use; and several others are now breaking in—and will shortly be serviceable.—And we have at length succeeded in possessing ourselves of that invaluable animal, the *horse*. Francis Devany deserves the credit of introducing the first, a vigorous steed, a few weeks since. Several others, are now ordered. The path from the interior direct to the Colony, by which horses will hereafter be brought into it, is at present too difficult to allow them to pass. While on this subject, permit me to enumerate the different species of domestic animals and products, rearing, and which, we have reason to expect, will ever hereafter be had in the Colony, in the greatest plenty. If not—it is certainly not the fault either of climate, seasons, or soil—but must be wholly chargeable on the indolence of the settlers.

Of Animals, &c. We have (now) *Horses, Cattle in abundance, Sheep, Goats in abundance, fowls, ducks, geese, Guinea fowls, swine* in plenty.—*Fish*, are no where found in greater quantities. *Asses*, are lately introduced. *Fruits*, are, *Plantains, Bananas* (reges frugum) in endless abundance—*Limes, Lemons, Tamarinds, Oranges, Soursop, Cashew, Mangoe*—20 varieties of the *Prune—Guava, Papaw, Pine-apple, Grape, tropical Peach and Cherry*.

Vegetables, are, *Sweet Potatoc*, easily made, and the crop abundant—*Cassada*—the chief edible root of the country, grows almost without culture—*Yams*—not so easily made, but a better vegetable, beginning to be plenty—*Cocoa*—a root easily grown, and nearly equal to the Yam. *Ground-nuts*—sowed often in *Rice-fields*, very prolific—*Arrow Root*—easily made, nutritious, but best for sale—*Egg-plant*—grows, once planted, without culture, very prolific—*Ocra*—every variety of *Beans*, and most sorts of *Pease—Cucumbers*—indigenous—*Pumpkins*—the several varieties succeed well.

Grains, are: *Rice*—the staple; several crops by way of expe-

riment the past season. It is a sure crop, but requires assiduous care. *Indian Corn*—does not succeed well—there is something unfriendly in either soil, or climate; supposed to be the too great heat of the latter. *Coffee*—of an excellent quality, and abundantly sufficient for the wants of the Colony. *Pepper*; of three varieties, of which either is equal to the Cayenne.—*Millet* and *Guinea Corn*—easily raised, but little cultivated.—Their place is supplied by the rice of the country.

Cotton is not yet cultivated, except on a small scale—staple good.

The food of labouring people in the Colony consists chiefly of the various preparations of Rice, Palm Oil, Beef, Coffee, Fowls, Goat's meat; Cassadas, Plantains, and Sweet Potatoes. Of all these articles, there are, and we trust will ever hereafter be had, the greatest abundance. But hitherto, yielding to the force of habit, formed in America, most of the colonists have, perhaps too liberally for their own interest, indulged themselves with flour, corn meal, butter, lard, pickled beef, fish and pork, and bacon,—a very large amount of all which is consumed every month—and I fear monthly becoming larger.

With the pardon of the Board, while on these minutiae, I will here add a sketch of the inside economy of this little community.

The older classes of settlers, fixed in comfortable dwellings, and surrounded with their little cultured premises, are variously and in general, successfully and actively employed in the coasting commerce, and the country trade; either through the factories, or at home. To this they add, as a source of profit, their transactions with trading vessels—and several of them, the exercise of their mechanical trades. Most of the mechanics of long standing, have from four to ten or twelve apprentices and journeymen working under them. To the same class is restricted, in the first instance, the benefit of nearly all the public money expended in the Colony—whether in the payment of salaries, job work, or building materials.—They are now beginning to add both to their comfort and their independence, by agriculture. Belonging to this class of settlers, is to be found, nearly all the trading capital, and much the greatest proportion of the whole wealth of the Colony. And it comprehends a large half of its entire population.

A second class (estimated at one-third of the population) have, after an exhausting effort, just placed themselves in their new—some, even not yet quite finished—houses; and are completing with great zeal and solicitude, the improvements on which the titles of their lands depend. Many, having large families to support while thus burdened with the severe labour of subduing a piece of forest land, and erecting houses, and very few bringing with them a spare dollar, feel the pressure of their circumstances, at this period, more sensibly than at any other perhaps in their lives. Earlier, they received a little weekly aid—(and a little, in an industrious and thrifty family, goes a long way,) from the public store. Later, they will have emerged into a state of comparative independence and ease—having houses over their heads, a title to their lands in their pocket, cleared and cultivated enclosures about them, and generally a healthier habit of body, from a longer residence in the climate. But at the stage I speak of, settlers are in want of all these comforts and helps—and obliged by their own incessant exertions, to create them all. Many of this class live, slenderly fed, slenderly clad, and not seldom, while the pressure lasts, indulge despondency;—and some of them even complain, that for ideal privileges, they have abandoned many substantial comforts, in America.—If mechanics, they spend nearly all their earnings in purchasing building materials—and in carpenters', masons', and labourers' hire, about their own houses. If simple farmers, or common labourers, it costs them two days' labour in every week for their more opulent neighbours, or the public, to get provisions for themselves and families—two days more, to pay for such building materials and clothing as they cannot make for themselves; and the remaining two days they spend on their buildings and lands. This is nearly the proportionate distribution of their industry, taking a month or season together. Some who have credit, go in debt at this stage of their residence in the Colony, and thus protract their embarrassments a couple of years longer. I do what I can to sustain their resolution in this emergency—encourage special industry, or merit struggling with too many difficulties at once, by a little seasonable relief—give them the refusal of certain little jobs, and contracts which promise to pay them best—and, to their credit be it said, few are found ungrate-

ful; and few but acquit themselves in this season, with much credit; and, as the reward of their perseverance, look forward, in a few months, to an easy and respectable establishment in the Colony.

The third class consists of settlers not a twelvemonth in the Colony. Most of these are yet in the Public Receptacles, and in rented houses. Imperfectly inured to the climate, they are incapable of severe labour—receive (for the early part of the period under consideration,) a little rice, tobacco, &c. from the public store, weekly—labour moderately, either on their own lots, and in preparing shingles &c. for their future houses—hire themselves, as journeymen, or labourers, to the older settlers—or employ themselves in preparing lumber, lime, stones, &c. &c. for sale.

To these may be joined a fourth class, not quite useless to the Colony—but altogether so to themselves. Men and women of too little forecast to see a month into the future, or care for any other part of their lives except the present hour. They lose their lands, because they never feel the necessity of taking measures to secure them, till it is too late. They never build houses, because a house can, *for the present month*, be hired much cheaper than they can build one. All the incurably lazy of the Colony, of course, muster in this class—but not a few, from a blind and constitutional improvidence, are referred to it, who labour hard the year round—but know not how to use their industry for their own benefit.

From this view of our interior economy, it results: (and the statement is made for the sake of the result)—

Firstly, That the Colony is sustained, and derives its growth, almost wholly from its own industry. True, there is a considerable amount of public money laid out, and which eventually stays in the Colony. But very few indeed receive even a part of their support, by a direct application of the public funds to their subsistence. And of these few, none, except too small a number of the sick to affect the account, receive, in that way, more than a small part of their subsistence. It is the labour of the colonists which sustains them—and which consequently sustains the Colony itself.—For the public supplies, instead of going to feed the people, after accomplishing this object, interme-

diately and as regards only a certain number, for a limited time, are made to end in permanent buildings and other public and durable improvements of the Colony.—So that it has the principle of its own growth within itself.

Secondly, The productive part of this industry, and that which directly administers to its growth, more than all others, is its *trade and commerce*. The expenditure of American funds here is subsidiary—and so is our gardening and agriculture.—But, these are *only* subsidiary to the trade of the Colony, as regards the share they contribute towards its prosperity. True, our rivers produce lime-shells—our hills building stones—our forests all the varieties of lumber, and other materials for building, for domestic furniture, and for naval uses:—and a very large proportion of the industry of the people is employed in preparing, transporting, and working up these materials. But what feeds and clothes them while thus employed?—What pays for these materials when brought into market?—or settles the joiners', cabinet makers', masons', plasterers' bills, when they are finally worked up? To all these inquiries, I answer, *the trade and commerce of the Colony*: and not, as I *gladly would* say, its agriculture. But,

Thirdly, So long as all the profits of trade remain in, and are laid out in permanently improving the Colony, the effect is nearly the same, on its general prosperity, as if the same improvements were effected by the surplus produce of agriculture. As many houses are built, as many roads opened, as many forts constructed, as many schools supported, on the one supposition as the other. But there is this difference. Every surplus bushel of rice, &c. made in the Colony, not only feeds as many people as the same quantity introduced by trade; but that bushel of rice proves the Colony capable, of itself, to produce another, and another bushel in its place, annually, so long as the world stands—which the bushel introduced by trade does not.—Found the Colony's independence, on its agriculture, and it stands on the surest of all grounds—on commerce, and it is precarious; liable to be affected by a thousand circumstances over which the Colony itself can exercise no control.

The truth compels me to say, that the sources of trade and commerce naturally belonging to the Colony, placed as it is on

the central part of a coast of vast extent—and bordering on populous and industrious nations in the interior of the continent, are not a tenth part explored:—and until they shall be both explored and occupied,—and so long as this vast field of commercial enterprise holds out new inducements to the settlers, to enter upon and cultivate it; is agriculture destined to follow in the train of trade—and not to lead it. Then, and not till then, is it likely that the tide of industry will shift its direction, and be made to set very strongly towards any other object. In the meantime it has been my invariable practice to hold out all possible encouragements, to the enterprise and perseverance of the farmers. The premiums authorized to be proposed for this end, by the Board of Managers, the last year, have to a certain extent, been beneficial. The survey on which the first annual award of these premiums is to be made, is now accomplishing.— But, as it was made a condition of carrying the several premiums, that the competitors should not only excel *others*, in the several crops, &c. but should *deserve* them, for the absolute value of those crops, and by the style of their work, as well as its relative quantity, I am apprehensive that not more than \$50, out of the \$200, will be, this year, awarded at all. But the competition has proved useful, and promises much better effects the ensuing year. All the practical farmers of Caldwell, (and most of the *inhabitants* are of this number,) are associated into an Agricultural Society. They meet weekly for the purpose of reporting, individually, the progress they have made in the week, on their plantations. These reports are recorded. Two, three or more questions, *of the most practical* nature, are then brought forward, every one is permitted to deliver his opinion; and state the reasons on which his opinion is founded. The question is then decided by a vote of the meeting; and if *unanimously* determined, is recorded as a *maxim* in the practical agriculture of the settlement, established for the present and future direction of all. The members are pledged to reduce to practice the axioms established in these meetings. I attend them myself—and can so far, bear a very decided testimony in favour of their great utility. The expedient will be attempted at the Cape: but promises less there than in Caldwell. Many, however, of that settlement are actively employed on their farms, this season: and

there remains not a doubt, that the products of the Colony, the ensuing year, will equal its consumption, in every article except rice. I have led the way in a farm of eight acres—which, considering the richness of the soil—the perennial growth of every plant and crop—and the most prolific nature of vegetation, in this country, is no contemptible piece of tillage. The articles cultivated on this land, are Cassada, Potatoes, Plantains, Bananas, Yams, several species of Pulse, a little Rice and Sugar-cane by way of experiment, Eggplants, Pepper, Coffee plants, Cotton, and a variety of fruit trees.

A concurrence of circumstances has given us, this season, the entire trade of Cape Mount. Two English vessels attempting to trade there, were not long since, totally lost. The difficult nature of the trade to strangers, deters some others. The contiguity of the Gallinas, which is still the occasional resort of piratical slavers, excludes a few more. And, to close the door still more effectually, the commercial regulations of the Colony prohibit the trade of Cape Mount to all foreign vessels trading to Cape Montserado. The same prohibition is extended to the whole line of coast between Cape Mount and Young Sesters, both inclusive—all of which is, constructively, within the occupation of the Colony.

The direct intercourse of the Colony with the interior is greatly improved and extended this season. Three individuals, *Frederick James, Reuben Dongey, and David Logan*, have, at great labour, and some personal hazard, been chiefly instrumental in procuring the advantages of this extension of our trade in that direction. We are now in treaty with King Boatswain to open an easy trade route to the distance of 150 miles. Beyond, the roads are good, and the communication free for traders, for aught we know, to Tombuctoo. This path already brings us nearly all our bullocks, and no inconsiderable amount of Ivory. And nearly all the Ivory received by this channel, is large and very valuable. James and Dongey are now in the interior—the former engaged in exploring the St. Paul's river from this place upwards of 200 miles, towards its source. There is reason to hope that its channel is not obstructed, in that whole distance, by more than two rapids. And only one of these is believed to amount to a complete obstruction of the boat navigation.

No change has occurred in the state of our establishments on the *Junk*, and on Factory Island, since my last letters. We have derived from them, a large quantity of rice and oil. Of the former article, there is now on hand 20 tons, or about 800 bushels; and we may safely depend on collecting a much greater amount of country produce this season, than in any former year. The many advantages even of a simple factory at Grand Bassa, (*Factory Island*) sufficiently indicate the usefulness of a snug little colony established at the same place. The chiefs of that country continue as solicitous as ever for such a settlement.—The want of settlers is the only obstacle—which we are eagerly expecting to see removed by the next arrival of colonist from the United States.

The Colony remains, still, on bad terms with Little Bassa. That place continues to be a depôt for slaving—two vessels having carried off slaves since September. It, indeed, furnishes our traders with large quantities of our best camwood—but refuses to punish the banditti who have perpetrated various acts of violence and pillage, on persons and property claiming the protection of the Colony. We have repeatedly proved the use of a forbearing policy—one effect of which is, to secure the suffrage of the judgment and moral sense of all the neighbouring tribes, in our favour. But, forbearance has its limits, beyond which it cannot be carried without pusillanimity, and an abandonment of the persons and property confided to, and confiding in, the protection of the Colony, to lawless violence and savage rapacity. And our forbearance, as regards this unprincipled tribe, certainly approximates very closely to those limits. May Heaven avert the necessity of bloodshed! But our little armed force is fitting for sea—and if the Board of Managers intend that arms shall not be used—and the calamity of war be forever and entirely avoided by their Colony; I see not but their present agent must be recalled, and a much *wiser* (I will not say more pacific) substituted in his place. Tom Bassa not only harbours, but protects, and shares the pillage of some sixty or eighty bandits, natives of Grand Battou and the other leeward parts of the coast, known by the name of Fishmen. These have, with arms, assaulted in three or four several instances, our own citizens, and country carriers, charged with the public property, and passing to and

from the leeward factories. They have wounded and maimed several men with fire-arms and cutlasses, and robbed them of \$1200 worth of property, belonging either to individual colonists, or to the public store. Tom has permitted the leader to withdraw with his booty—refuses to punish the rest—and neglects to restore more than a trifling part of the property: and all this in violation of solemn written engagements. Three different delegations have been sent from Montserado—without obtaining the least satisfaction. And what, I would respectfully inquire, now remains, except the “ultima ratio regum”?

We have been in the possession of Young Sesters since my last:—the war still prevailing, has rendered the situation of the factor and other occupants, resident in that country, less secure than could be wished. The site of the factory, on one occasion, having become the theatre of hostilities, they were obliged to remove the property to a place of greater safety. An old and slight building, the property of the Colony, was soon after destroyed, with about \$60 worth of private property. The King has engaged to make good this small loss, to the satisfaction of the owners. And a substantial frame house has since been erected. King Freeman is importunate for a small colony from Montserado to be established in his territories. All the chiefs of the neighbourhood, Tradetown excepted, concur with him in his solicitations for the same object. Such special grants of lands are now executing with those chiefs, as shall authorize the making of subordinate grants to colonists, on sure grounds; and a company of six or eight settlers is now raising, for the purpose of permanently and effectually settling that country. These, together with about fourteen labourers under them, and accompanied at first with a force of 10 or 12 recaptured Africans, may be expected to remove to that territory early in January; and commence the building of a small town and fortification, and the making of farms. The lands along the banks of Poor river, are of the very best quality—and having been in the cultivation of the natives, are easily cleared and subdued.

Our inducements for colonizing this territory, are,

1st. To establish and extend in the most effectual method, the influence of the Colony over not only the Sesters, but all the leeward tribes—especially such as will be thus placed between that settlement and Montserado.

2d. To assure the safety of all the intermediate establishments of the Colony—as well as of the Sesters itself. Some method of protection must be adopted for the security of our two establishments at Grand Bassa, and our third at the Junk. But, shall we fortify, and support a guard at each of these factories, as well as at the Sesters? If such an expense were possible, it would be most absurd and unnecessary. Fortify the out-post—strengthen the frontier; and there will be little use of fortifications at each of the several posts within those limits. But the absolute expense to the Colony, of guarding a factory, and maintaining a military post at Sesters, is not less than that which would be sufficient to colonize it. For the colonists, while they support themselves, and carry on their farms and buildings, are, for all general purposes, the best possible defence. A whole territory in our occupation there, will extend our influence much more effectually than a simple fort—a town will form a much more formidable barrier, than a factory—and a little community of inhabitants, than a very numerous guard. Settle the Sesters, and we may securely settle any part of the territory within.—For example, What insecurity can colonists on Factory Island feel, so long as they have a protecting settlement 25 miles beyond them? Among the candidates for this little sub-colony, not a man is enrolled, who has not been, at least, three or four years in Africa, and who is not personally acquainted with hundreds of the people among whom they are going—and entirely devoid of that suspicious timidity, which *invites* the aggressions of the country people, by seeming to *fear* and *distrust* them.—But, as their enterprise is one of great self-denial, and not a little arduous, I have thought it but just to hold out to adventurers extraordinary inducements. The first 12 families are, therefore, to be permitted to hold lands in the Sesters, without regard to lands previously held by them in any of the other settlements of the Colony. They are, further, to have the selection of these lands in an order to be fixed by lot. And their charter secures to the settlement a monopoly of its own trade for five years—(the public purchasers of rice and oil always excepted.) It is proposed to build a town on a height at no great distance from the sea on the one hand, and a few hundred yards from the river, on the other. A considerable chief of Toboçanee has just offered

the Colony, all the beach from G. Bassa to the village of Tapoanee. The remaining portion between that village and Poor river, it is thought, may be had for a reasonable consideration. This territory abounds in Coffee—but the lands, near the Sea, are generally poor and lean, and the beach affords no commodious landing place—so, that, I have not definitively replied to the offer made us by its owners. The matter will be, however, kept alive till I make a visit to that part of the coast, which I propose to do about Christmas.

(To be continued.)



“A Voice from Africa.”

A duodecimo pamphlet of thirty-four pages, with this title, has been transmitted to us, by a highly esteemed friend in Baltimore, who has likewise favoured us with the following account of its origin and object.

“The idea occurred to some benevolent friends of African Colonization in this place, that great benefit to the cause would ultimately proceed from instructing children in the principles of the great scheme in which we are all engaged. Many years must clapse before the emigration from this country can be as great as we wish it, both on account of the paucity of our means to send emigrants, and the want of accommodations in Africa for more than a very limited number. This time it was thought could not be better employed than in spreading among the coloured people an earnest desire to emigrate, whenever circumstances would permit: and this could not be better effected than by commencing with children, teaching these to consider Africa as their natural home, making them acquainted with its history and productions, and convincing them that it is there alone they can ever hope to attain the full enjoyment of the rights of free and independent men. With this view, I undertook, at the request of Moris Sheppard, a member of the Society of Friends, to compose an easy history of your Colony and of the Society—which the youngest child might spell,—as an introduction to the Address of the Citizens of Liberia. To this I added a hymn and prayer, written with the best of my skill, for children to commit to memory. A Glossary of the hard words closes the book—the titlepage tells the rest. Mr. Sheppard has caused 3000 of these primers, if they can be so called, to be printed at his own expense, in the style of that which I send you; and he has placed them with me for

distribution. He intends that this shall be the first of a series of "minor publications" for the use of African schools; and he has ordered an engraving of General Harper's head for the next. I feel satisfied that the Board will acknowledge this distinguished liberality on the part of a private individual. The "Voice from Africa" will exert an influence beyond the precincts of the school room.—Parents will derive information from their children; and the views of the Society, and the history and productions of Africa, will be widely and advantageously disseminated. It is proposed to offer a premium in each African school to the youth who shall commit the Address to memory. All will no doubt attempt, and very many will succeed. Depend upon it, my dear Sir, African emigration will yet become so popular among the blacks, that they will themselves in many cases furnish their own passage money to Liberia."

We wish all possible success to this very judicious method of instructing the Free People of colour in the design of our Institution, and the benefits to be realized from its execution. When well-informed on these subjects, it will be impossible for them to remain indifferent spectators of our proceedings; they will be excited to action, and thousands will lay aside the gains of their more productive industry, that they may be able to remove to Liberia. The expense of transportation, will probably be reduced by the increase of commercial intercourse with the Colony, although it is not now beyond the means of any healthy, single young man of colour, who can command the profits of his labours. We hope that all such will consider the prize which a kind Providence now holds out to their enterprise, and resolve that neither idleness, inconsideration, nor improvidence, shall prevent their obtaining it.

As pleasing specimens of the little work before us, and to show how well it is adapted to the use of the African schools in the United States, we here insert the Hymn and Prayer, which succeed the Address of the Colonists to their brethren in America.

Land of our fathers, Af-ri-ca,
 We turn our thoughts to thee—
 To gain thy shores we'll gladly bear
 The storm upon the sea.

For He, who on the firm-set land
 Can wield His power to save,
 Will watch above the pilgrim band
 And guard it on the wave.

Land of our sires, thy spreading palm
 Above us yet shall wave,
 And on thy shore the sacred psalm
 Shall tell Who came to save.

We left thee drowned in Pagan night,
 A Saviour's name unknown;
 We'll bring thee back the heav-en-ly light,
 Which is the Christian's own.

We'll live, where flow the rivers by,
 Which were our fathers' pride,—
 And die beneath the same blue sky,
 'Neath which our fathers died.

Then welcome day, and welcome hour,
 When on the sea we roam,—
 Our guide, the God whose word is power,
 To gain our fathers' home.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose all-seeing eye is over the plains of Africa, as well as over the cities of America, we give thee our humble and hearty thanks, that thou hast protected, on the great sea, and at last established in the land of their forefathers, the free citizens of Liberia. We bless thee, that thou hast preserved them in health and safety through all the toils and perils of strangers in a strange land, until "the wilderness around them has blossomed as the rose." And most especially, Oh, most merciful Father, do we bless and magnify thy holy name, that thou hast vouchsafed thy spirit to the people of Liberia, and that thy Everlasting Gospel is made their animating spring of action, their daily rule of life, and their source of immortal hope and ineffable enjoyment. We humbly beseech thee so to continue thy gracious protection, that the Colony now established, may increase in temporal as well as spiritual happiness, until a mighty nation, peopled by pilgrims returning to their fathers' homes, shall arise, from which the light of thy truth shall beam upon Pagan Africa; and Ethiopia, lifting up her hands unto God, shall embrace the hope of everlasting life held forth to all through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Missions to Africa.

We have received, through the kindness of its Secretary, the first of a series of Quarterly Papers, to be published by the *Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, of the Protestant Epis-*

copal Church in the United States. The number before us relates almost entirely to the subject of missions in Africa; for which, we have already stated, a missionary has been selected by this Society (the Rev. Jacob Oson), who will shortly embark for Liberia. This paper contains part of a speech by the Rev. J. Raban, one of the English Missionaries at Sierra Leone, delivered at the Anniversary Meeting of the Church Missionary Society in 1827, from which we make the following extracts:

“It is well known, that our efforts in Sierra Leone, have been particularly, though not exclusively, directed to the instruction and improvement of the liberated Africans. Our congregations during the past year, in the different villages connected with the Society, have amounted on the average, to 3,000 persons on Sundays, and about half as many on the week days. The attention and seriousness manifested by all were truly gratifying. I heard many of them join in the forms of our excellent liturgy, and sing the praises of God; and I saw many attend to the word of life, with an anxiety, which proved that they were desirous of profiting by what they heard.

“The number of our scholars, in the last year, was about 1900; the greater part of whom, were children liberated from slave vessels. Of their behaviour, I am justified in saying, that on the whole, I consider it equally good with children of the lower class in this country. Respecting their progress, it cannot be expected to be rapid, when it is considered that all that is imparted to most of them, is by the medium of a foreign language; and that those who were born in the Colony, can have scarcely any assistance from their parents, they themselves being almost equally strangers to English.

“Of our native teachers and assistants, several give us very great pleasure; and we ardently hope that it may please God, to raise up many more, both children and adults, who shall take a part in assisting to convey to their own countrymen the glad tidings of salvation.

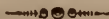
“With respect to our communicants, we have, including Free Town, four hundred and thirty. A greater number occasionally attend, but I speak now of the average attendance.

“I have had much pleasure in baptizing the children of the liberated Africans; the attention which the parents have shown on these occasions has been very gratifying, and I have reason to believe that they have been desirous to bring them up in the fear and knowledge of God.”

While on this subject, we are happy to mention the very successful efforts of the Rev. Lott Carey to preach the Gospel to the natives in the vicinity of our Colony, and to instruct their children in the knowledge of the Scriptures. We observe by

his letter to a Christian Brother in Richmond, dated Monrovia, Dec. 20, 1827, that a school has been established, through his agency, near Grand Cape Mount, and that the chiefs of the country have unanimously resolved to encourage and protect it. The following extract will show, what a desire for knowledge exists among the natives.

“The heathen in our vicinity are so very anxious for the means of light that they will buy it—beg it—and, sooner than miss of it, they will steal it. To establish this, I will mention a circumstance which actually took place in removing our school establishment up to C. M. I had upwards of forty natives to carry our baggage, and they carried something like 250 bars, a part of them went on four days before hand, and had every opportunity to commit depredations; but of all the goods that were sent and carried there, nothing was lost except fifteen Spelling Books, five of them we recovered again. I must say that I was almost pleased to find them stealing books, as they know that you have such a number of them in America, and that they can, and no doubt will, be supplied upon better terms.”



To our Friends.

It will be recollected, we trust, that the operations of the Board of Managers the present year must depend, as to their extent and importance, almost entirely upon the funds which may be contributed within three or four months from the present time. The expeditions which may be fitted out should leave our shores early in the autumnal months—certainly, the departure of none of them should be deferred until winter. Much time must necessarily be consumed in the outfits; hence the importance of enabling the Managers speedily to decide upon the amount of funds with which they are probably to be favoured for the prosecution of their enterprise the ensuing year. May we be pardoned, for expressing the hope, that the Managers of Auxiliary Societies will seriously consider this subject, and inform us as early as convenient of the sums which the several associations they represent, may probably be enabled to contribute, and of the time when their remittances may be expected. Another subject which we regard as immensely important, and to which we earnestly solicit the attention of all who wish success to our Institution, is that of securing the consent of the Churches of all

denominations throughout the Union, *to take up Collections for the Society, on or about the Fourth of July next.* The very limited adoption of this measure, produced, the last year, a valuable income to the Society, and its general adoption could not fail to secure a revenue greatly exceeding the amount which has been received by our Treasurer-during any single year. *Let every Friend to our scheme feel it a solemn duty to promote this object, and it may be accomplished. Let every Minister of Christ reflect upon it, and it will be effected* in a manner honourable to our country, and cheering to Africa.



The Generous Scheme promoted.

It may be well to state, (as some of our readers may not have perused our last volume) that Gerrit Smith, Esq. of Peterboro, N. Y. has offered to give one thousand dollars to our Society, payable, one hundred annually, for ten years, provided that ninety-nine others can be found who will subscribe in the same manner. We published in our last number, a letter from a gentleman in Charleston, S. C. expressing his wish to be considered one of the number. Two other individuals, whose names we are not now at liberty to mention, have resolved to join in this great work of charity. We cannot, however, withhold the following letter, the spirit of which we pray may pervade many minds.

NEWARK, MARCH 15, 1828.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:

I duly received your communication on the subject of Mr. Gerrit Smith's proposition of raising funds for the Colonization Society. I ardently hope, that it may be cherished by at least a hundred friends.

With our disappointed expectations in New Jersey, in the cause of African Education, you are acquainted—these and other difficulties have led me fully into Mr. Smith's conclusion, "that the only present channel for our labours in behalf of Africa and her unhappy children on our shores, is that which the American Colonization Society opens up."

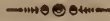
You will please, therefore, receive this as my stipulation to become one of the hundred subscribers to pay one hundred dollars each for ten years, payments to be made on the 1st of July of each year. And may He, who has the hearts of all men in

his hands, bring to this blessed enterprise the patronage, it so much needs and deserves.

With great regard, Yours truly,

THEO. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Rev. R. R. GURLEY.



Death of Dr. William Thornton.

With heartfelt sorrow we record the death of Dr. WILLIAM THORNTON of this city, a devoted friend of our Society, and from its origin a highly valued member of the Board of Managers. Gifted with rare genius and endowed with most amiable and philanthropic dispositions, he engaged with deep interest and untiring zeal in the cause of African improvement, and indeed, in every scheme which he considered favourable to human liberty and happiness. The project of African Colonization, first suggested by Doctor Fothergill, (who is styled by Brissot “the great Apostle of Philanthropy,”) and partially executed by Granville Sharp, excited the benevolent enthusiasm of Doctor Thornton while quite a young man, and he generously proposed himself to become the conductor of American Negroes to the country of their ancestors.— Though unable to secure funds adequate to the execution of this purpose, he still cherished the hope that a plan so patriotic and beneficent would ultimately be adopted by the American people, and rejoiced in the establishment of the American Colonization Society, as an evidence that this hope was not to be disappointed.

Punctual and faithful in his attendance on the deliberations of the Board, liberal towards the sentiments of others, while expressing with candour and firmness his own opinions, with a spirit that would quickly glow with indignation at deeds of inhumanity or baseness, or yield prompt and joyous praise to generous and noble actions, his occasional peculiarities of thought sprung from ardent enthusiasm in the cause of man, an enthusiasm not easily satisfied with the present progress of improvement, but high-wrought with the anticipations of a better age.— The grief of the Board on the occasion of the decease of this lamented individual, is expressed in the following Resolutions:—

OFFICE OF THE COLONIZATION SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, MARCH 29, 1828.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Colonization Society, called for the purpose of paying an honourable and merited tribute of respect to the memory of Dr. WILLIAM THORNTON, late one of its zealous and much esteemed members, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

This Board having heard with very deep regret of the death of Dr. William Thornton, one of its earliest and most highly valued members, and whose loss must be severely felt by the friends of Africa and mankind;

Therefore, Resolved, That, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased, the members of this Board will attend his funeral, and that they will wear crape on the left arm for thirty days.

Resolved, That the above preamble and resolution be transmitted to the family of the deceased, and published in the National Intelligencer of this City.



Contributions

To the American Colonization Society, from 1st March to 1st April, 1828.

An association of Ladies of the two Presbyterian Churches, Richmond, Va., to constitute Rev. Jonas King a life member,	\$30
Literary Society, Romney, Va., per Wm C. Woodrow, Esq. Sec.	26
Collections per Mr. Tappan of Boston, as follows:	
From North Yarmouth and Cumberland—4th July last,	18 36
Harvey Sessions, Newport, for Repository for 1827, . . .	2
From Westhampton, Mass.—4th July,	13 08
From Southampton, Mass.—4th July,	8 58
From South Hadley, Mass., 1st Parish,	12
From East Hampton,	7 58
From a Lady in Greensborough, Vermont,	1
From Hendley, Mass.—4th July,	17 03
From individuals in Ashfield, Mass.	2 68
From Executors of the late Aaron Woodman, of Boston,	250
“Female Society in Dedham, for educating children in Africa,” to constitute Rev. Mr. Searle a life member,	50
	362 31
Jasper Corning, Esq., of Charleston, S. C.—his first payment under the proposition to contribute the same sum annually for ten years, on condition that 100 persons can be found to do the same,	100
Thos. P. Wilson, Esq., of Rockville, Md.	10
Collections by Rev. B. O. Peirs, as follows:	
In Doct. Herron’s Church, Pittsburg,	22 55
Auxiliary Society, Pittsburg,	42
Do. Maysville,	60
Rev. Mr. Todd’s Church, Flemingsburg,	15
— Mr. Smith’s Church, Frankfort,	4
Mr. Coxe, of Maysville,	5
Repository,	4
	152 55
	\$680 86

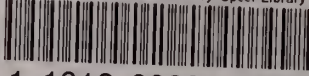


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